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# THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE

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No. 1

## IZARD-LAURENS CORRESPONDENCE

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS  
[HENRY LAURENS TO RALPH IZARD]

[1]

Ralph Izard; London.  
Per Portland—Wilson  
Copy per Purchase.

10th February 1775.

Dear Sir:

If I should any longer delay writing you might not only wonder, but ascribe my silence to Some wrong cause.

To morrow will complete two months since my arrival here in that time the attention of every Man of any rank obscurity has been more or less engaged in public affairs, not one more particularly called upon than Mr. E. Rutledge,<sup>1</sup> to this circumstance I attribute his inability, after many promises, to join me in a visit to your plantations which I should have made several weeks ago if he had not particularly signified a desire to accompany me, and in order to accomodate him as well as to indulge my self I would continue to wait, if it were not likely to be attended with great injury to your Interest—but I have heard from Mr. Thomas Smith, concerning your Goose Creek Plantation and of Mr. Farr, of your Estates in general such bad Acct's as oblige me even at the

<sup>1</sup> Edward Rutledge had charge of Izard's affairs in South Carolina; in July 1774, he got (Thos.?) Farr to take charge. (*Izard Correspondence*, pp. 5, 6.)

hazard of further losses in my own to interpose as far as I can in your concerns.—I shall begin a journey this Morning towards Bacon Bridge and endeavour to take the Several Plantations in this Quarter under examination, all that can be accomplished in so few days as I have to spare shall be to the best of my ability—my own Estates soward of CharlesTown require my attendance full as much as yours, but these shall have the preference. I have not seen my own nor will I go to them before I visit yours—at my return from this Journey I shall report to Mr. Rutledge and engage his more particular attention during my absence from Charles-Town—when I go to the Southward.

Your box of papers is not yet come to my hand when it does I shall take the best measures in my power contents (*sic*).

From Mr. Rutledge's accounts of Remittances which he has made to you we compute that £1200 Sterling more will be necessary to borrow in order to make your demand of Four Thousand,—hitherto our endeavours for procuring so much Money on our joint Bond have been fruitless; Money is exceedingly scarce, as I too feelingly know in my own affairs I am obliged to beg and intreat for the payment of three and four years arrears of interest due on Bonds to my self and even under such well grounded claims can scarcely bring in enough to keep my House expences from debt.

Mr. Manigault,<sup>2</sup> my Brother<sup>3</sup> and another friend will endeavour to assist me—a few days longer delay, provided I succeed in the end will probably be attended by advantage to you as the source of Exchange seems to be inclining to the old standard 700 per Cent.<sup>4</sup>

In a word Sir although I count myself in an unfortunate engagement yet I will do all that I can to serve you but I perceive too clearly that your affairs require as my own did and still do the Eye and direction of a Master.

I must close here for the present and shall [do] what may be needful at my return on the 14th or 15th Inst.—My best wishes attend you and Mrs. Izard and my compliments to your fellow

<sup>2</sup> Gabriel Manigault, Sr.

<sup>3</sup> James Laurens.

<sup>4</sup> South Carolina currency was for many years valued at 7£ Currency to 1£ Sterling.

traveller, Mr. Lee<sup>5</sup>—not a single Syllable has been imported to me upon the subject of the ANSWER,<sup>6</sup> altho I have exchanged visits and been often in company with our friends from whom we had some expectations and I am too nearly Interested my self to admit of breaking the Ice you seem to be the middle Man.

I remain with great regard &c.

[2]

Ralph Izard: London  
Recommended to W. Manning,  
Per Capt. Yowart.

Sunbury in Georgia, 27 Mar, 1775

Dear Sir:

I beg leave to refer you to my last Letter from CharlesTown of 10th february.—

I visited your several plantations, the *Camp*, *Jack Savanna*, *Walnut Hill*, *Round Savanna* and twice, *Goose Creek*<sup>7</sup>—at each I

<sup>5</sup> Arthur Lee, M.D. 1740–1792; diplomat.

<sup>6</sup> *Answer* refers to the reply to Sir Egerton Liegh's anonymous pamphlet, entitled *Considerations on Certain Transactions of the Province of South Carolina* (McCrary, vol. 2, p. 722), which violently attacked Laurens.

From a letter written by Laurens to John Lewis Gervais, dated Westminster, January 24, 1774 (Laurens's papers, Mss.) we find that Leigh's pamphlet came out in January, 1774, and a copy was at once sent to the Library Society in Charles Town; Laurens attributed it to Leigh, with whom he had quarreled, with good cause, both for political and family reasons; Laurens took up the matter of a reply with Charles Garth, London agent for South Carolina, who agreed to furnish material for the Answer; he then consulted with Izard who took up the cause; the *Answer* prepared by (Arthur?) Lee, appeared April 8, 1774 (Laurens papers, letter to John Laurens). Edward Rutledge in letter to Izard July 21, 1774, mentions Lee's pamphlet, and states that he and Lynch will do what is proper. (*Izard Correspondence*, pp. 5, 77.)

McCrary (vol. 2, p. 722), thinks that the *Answer* resembles the style of Wm. Henry Drayton. Mr. Wallace (*Life of Laurens*, p. 173) states that he knows of no move of Izard's in the matter. The evidence above, taken with the letters now being printed, seems to show that the *Answer* was prepared by (Arthur?) Lee from matter chiefly furnished by Charles Garth, edited by Laurens and Izard, and the expense borne by Laurens, with the expectations of assistance from Edward Rutledge and Thomas Lynch.

<sup>7</sup> The Camp was near Ashley River, (*This Magazine*, vol. xix, p. 73). Jack Savanna, Round Savanna, and Walnut Hill, were on the south west side of the Ashley River (*Ibid.*, xv, pp. 150, 155). The Goose Creek plantation was the Elms.

found affairs in such order as displeased me and made some arrangements which I hope will be attended with benefit to you—I took a state of the Negroes Cattle &c—at each place the particulars of which shall be soon transmitted to you after my return to Charles Town, whither I am now proceeding from a visit from my own plantations in this Province. I mean to call again on yours in the course of my Journey—

When I left home which was on the 25th febr'y I had recd encouragement from Mr. Manigault and Mr. Thos. Smith to hope of finding at my return Money in their hands for your use, which if I am not disappointed shall be immediately remitted to your direction—

I have conferred with Mr. Wainwright<sup>8</sup> in the encroachment which it was supposed he had made in your Jack Savannah Tract; said I must go to Law with him, that I should endeavour to support your right effectually, and hoped I might do so without danger of forfeiting that regard which he had always professed for me—Mr. Wainwright met me short by a proceedure and declaration the most candid and unexceptional—he produced his plat, showed, as he alledged, that he held in his Tract many Acres less than of right belonged to him and none of yours—proposed a survey of your respective possessions and to be determined by the opinion and Award of impartial judicious Arbetrators, all expenses to be paid by the party who should be found to be wrong in claim or defence—a fairer answer could not be expexted from any Man, it therefore lies with you now to give your Attornies proper direction on this head.

I have also conversed and corresponded with Mr. Maine, late Surveyor of Lands—his answer to my letter which you will receive inclosed will shew you that no aid can be hoped for from him in your claim upon Crowfield Land<sup>9</sup> which you suppose has encroached upon your Goose Creek Tract—

You will perceive that I have not been quite unmindful of your concerns and may rest assured that I will do every thing in my power to assist Mr. Rutledge in conducting them for your advantage I can only add my Compliments to Mrs. Izard and that I remain with great regard, &c.

<sup>8</sup> Samuel Wainwright. (*Ibid.*, p. 152.)

<sup>9</sup> William Middleton, of Crowfield Hall, married April 21, 1730, Mary Izard, aunt to the Ralph Izard, Jr., of these letters. (*This Magazine*, vol. II, p. 211.)

[RALPH IZARD TO HENRY LAURENS]

[3]

London, 4th June, 1775.

Dear Sir.

I am favoured with a letter from you of the 10th Feb'y, and another from Georgia of the 27th March. I think myself much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken, and do not doubt but my affairs will be in a much better state under your management, and friendly attention. You think that my estate requires the eye of a Master. The eye of a friend will I hope for some time answer all the purposes of it. The proposal that Mr. Wainwright has made seems very fair; you will be so good as to communicate it to Mr Rutledge and have the matter settled. Whatever you, and he agree to I will certainly abide by. You will be so good as to speak to Mr. Macpherson on the subject, and learn who the old people are in the neighbourhood who are acquainted with the lines. I am entirely a stranger to the mode of settling these kind of disputes, but I have been told that a great deal of care is necessary to avoid being over reached. I am not in the least acquainted with Mr. Wainwright, but Mr. Manigault has described him to me as a man extremely litigious, and ever watchful to take advantage of whatever may be turned to his own interest. I hope to hear that his character has been misrepresented.

With regard to the Goose Creek Tract, Mr. Maine acted I suppose according to the intelligence which he received from Mr. Gerardeau who surveyed Crowfield.

They certainly cut off part of my land, and Gerardeau told me he did it in consequence of what he had heard from Mr. Walter which was that my Grandfather had given it to Mr. Middleton when he married my Aunt. The old negro Joshua at Goose Creek, or Robin can inform you more about it than I can. Mr. William Middleton<sup>10</sup> has assured me that my Grandfather never gave him any land. I am extremely anxious about having my lines settled, and knowing the value of all my property in Carolina. As the Country disagrees with me I am desirous of dividing it and having part in money at interest, and part in land in New York;<sup>11</sup> will you be so good as to give me your advice on this

<sup>10</sup> See note 9.

<sup>11</sup> Ralph Izard married, 1767, Miss Alice Delancey, niece of Governor Delancey, of New York. (*Ibid.*, p. 214.)

subject. If any favourable opportunity were to offer, I should be glad to dispose of half my lands, and Negroes for that purpose.

Mr [Benjamin] Bewicke tells me that he has received twenty casks of Indigo which he cannot sell according to the value of the Invoice. Neither Mr. Rutledge nor Mr. Farr have written me a syllable on the subject; my being on the Continent may probably have been the reason. I wrote to you from Florence, Leghorn, Rome and Naples; some of my letters I hope have got to your hands. It is incredible what a number of my letters I have lost during my Tour. Many that came safe appeared to have undergone an examination at the Post office; surely the curiosity of the Gentlemen there is insatiable. I am much surprised that neither Mr. Lynch nor Mr. Rutledge has mentioned anything to me about the Pamphlet. Rutledge indeed in one of his Letters to me, tells me that he, and Lynch would take care, and do what was proper about it.<sup>12</sup> Whatever they intend doing I am sure it is not proper to delay it so long. If nothing is done I shall certainly share the loss with you. After the trouble we have had in this business I think it will savour a little of ingratitude if we are suffered to be losers. I shall write to them about it.

*Endorsed:*

Copy of Letters in 1775  
to Henry Laurens, Esq; No 5.

[HENRY LAURENS TO RALPH IZARD]

[4]

Ralph Izard, London.

Per L. Despensier; 23 October, 1775

Dear Sir:

I had intended by this opportunity to have written you a very circumstantial account concerning your affairs in this Country, but Public business and some untoward occurrences which are pretty public too have robbed me of the proper time, I have risen this Morning long before daylight in order to write and dispatch this on board the Packet which is to sail at Dawn—

Your Indigo Plantations at Santé have made bad Crops, that under Boyd's care scarcely enough to pay expences. And the

<sup>12</sup> See note 6.

Camp yields as bad an Account as either, the Rice was almost totally destroyed by Spring Rains after being planted and replanted three times, I went there the 9th September to view the Indigo and had intended to have shipped it, but found it too wet, and I am sorry to add that the whole quantity will not exceed eight hundred weight.—At Goose Creek and the Beech Hill Plantations the Crops of Rice are also short but you are as well off as your Neighbours in general. I shall be able to make out Cloathing enough for about half your Negroes not more.

In the late, I may say present, bustle of people removing from Charles Town, Mr. Rutledge's Clerk called upon me to take charge of a quantity of Madeira Wine which he said belonged to you the first intimation I had ever had of it.—

I found it in extreme bad order the Casks in which it had been packed all loose and open some of them fallen asunder and much breakage at the same time a Cedar Chest which I suppose contains your Papers was discovered and said to belong to you together with certain Household plate, which are now in my hands.

Such large demands are made upon me for amounts due by Your Estates before I came into the Colony as will oblige me to borrow perhaps £1500 Currency or Subject your Estate to attachments—these are all unpleasant tidings and shew you the necessity there is for a personal attendance—you may rely on this for truth that I attend your affairs full as much as I do my own and so much more as that I have called in the aid of Mr. John Lewis Gervais a Gentleman well qualified for the purpose and have promised to give him all the Commission to which I shall be entitled in return for his assistance.—here I must close or my Letter will be left behind the Boat people call on me and will wait no longer.

Our public affairs are not a whit more satisfactory than the accounts which I have given of the Crops.

[RALPH IZARD TO HENRY LAURENS]

[5]

London. 16th. July, 1777.

Dear Sir.

It is a melancholy situation for a person of any modesty to be in when he is obliged either to have an undeserved censure cast upon his conduct, or to speak in his own praise. To you I think



it will be unnecessary to say much of my political opinions, and conduct. If the knowledge that have had of both when you were in London, was not sufficient to make you think favourably of them, neither would you be induced to do so, by any thing I could say to you now. I had flattered myself that it would have enabled you to have given my Countrymen so favourable an opinion of me, that when the measures of withholding the property of those Gentlemen who were absent, was resolved on, I might not have had such an affront offered me; not as a favour, no man has a right to expect that, in such times as the present. In the winter of 1775 I sent a proposal to Mr. Lynch, which I desired him to communicate to his friends who were at that time in Philadelphia. It was months after, before I received a Letter from him, which was written in such a manner that I could not understand it; I had not then learned of his misfortunes.<sup>13</sup> However strong my inclinations may have been since that time to carry my family to America, my Wife has been in such a situation, that I have never had it in my power to do it, without great danger to her. I have not however been idle here. Every exertion in my power, has been made to be of service to the cause I have so much at heart; and to stop the progress of Tyranny, which has produced such Convulsions, and Calamities in every part of the Empire. It is some consolation, though but a small one, to think that if the doctrine which I endeavoured to inculcate had been adopted; if Commissioners to treat with the Congress had been sent without an Army and no bloody Germans had been engaged, we should be now in the enjoyment of the blessings of Peace. These points I urged as forcibly as I could with L; North, L; G. Germaine, and Sir Gilbert Elliott; but their system was determined on, and nothing upon Earth could have prevailed on them to give it up. Other attempts to be of service I have made, not proper for a Letter, and which I hope have not been altogether ineffectual, I have been attentive to the duties of a good Citizen, labouring for the success of a cause, which I think the noblest that ever was contended for. Conscious as I am of this, it is humiliating for me, when I expect approbation, to receive the censure of my Countrymen, which I attribute to their not having been

<sup>13</sup> Thomas Lynch, Sr., died Dec. 1776.

properly informed about me, and which I cannot help lamenting as a misfortune. I have lately written to your Son, to E. Rutledge, and to my cousin Ralph, on the subject of remittances. This was done before I received your letter of 2d. April, delivered to me by Mr: Wells, and which was the first information that I had of your being restrained from sending my property to me. I have desired a remittance of £1500 or £2000 Sterling to be made; but for the reasons which you give in your Letter respecting the price of Indigo, and the difficulty that I find there is of getting any produce to an European market, I wish not to have above five or six hundred pounds sent. The economical plan which I have adopted, and the receiving some money lately that was due me from my Uncle Johnson's<sup>14</sup> estate in Ireland, enables me to make a shift some time longer without any remittance; and I should not be very anxious about having any, if I did not consider it as a removal of the misconception about me. This matter I leave entirely to yourself, and desire that you will let me hear from you about it, as soon as you have leisure.

So much for my publick conduct, which to mention a syllable of to you in a way that looks like justifying myself, wounds something within me, which an Enemy would call pride, but which I think ought to have a gentler appellation. With respect to my private conduct, there cannot be much difficulty in clearing up that. You say "that you have frequently written to me, and that you have never received a line from me; that possibly Letters from each may have been intercepted; which was to be admitted only as a possibility because your Letters to other friends, and theirs to you have been received on each side." If I were capable of so great a neglect as this, I should be altogether unworthy of your friendship. That I have not, I do in the most solemn manner in the Presence of God declare. As to my own private affairs, I seldom said much about them, having the most implicit confidence in your management and thinking then, as I do still, that the less there was said about them under the appearance of giving directions, the better; as you, who were on the spot, could judge with more propriety what ought to be done, than I at this distance. I wrote several political Letters to you wishing to keep up a corre-

<sup>14</sup> Henry Izard, father to Ralph, married September 26. 1739, Margaret, daughter of Gov. Robert Johnson. (*This Magazine*, vol. II, p. 213.)

spondence with you in that line, but not receiving any return, I conceived that the business, and engagements you had entered into, made it troublesome, which was the reason of my discontinuing it. It is extremely unfortunate that our Letters should so frequently have miscarried. I have received none from you but those of 10.th Feb: 1775, 27th March, 1775, and 23d Oct: 1775, and likewise a note of about four lines, informing me in general terms, that my affairs were in a bad state, and that the American Fleet<sup>15</sup> had just made its appearance off the Bar. I have been for these two, or three years very little in London, and therefore was not in the way of being informed of private opportunities. When I was in France, and Italy, I enclosed my Letters to you, to Mr: Sayre which he put in the Post office expecting that they would go by the Packet. This I also did myself upon my return to England. Mrs. Izard's letters to her family at New York have been constantly opened, and almost as constantly withheld, and mine have without doubt been served in the same way. My letters to you have not been regular for the reasons I have given above; but I do again in the most solemn manner assure you that I have written to you since your departure from England, at least seven or eight, which if they had been received, would have exempted me from the charge of neglect. I do not always keep copies of my letters, but think myself fortunate in having found three among my papers, which I shall transcribe several times, together with this Letter, in hopes of getting one copy to your hands. You say that you had heard in CharlesTown, that I had taken Lodgings in the King's Bench, whether this report was fabricated by malevolence, or folly, I cannot tell. In either case it cannot affect me otherwise than exciting my pity, or contempt. I could wish for the Gentleman's own sake, be he who he may, that it were the latter; as the character of a Fool, is not so bad as that of a Knave. You say that you are sorry to hear such a report, and would not believe it. I should have expected no less of you, from the friendship you have been so good to express for me ever since I have had the pleasure of your acquaintance. You will, I doubt not, do me the justice to believe, that if you had been at any time seperated from your estate, and such misfortune had

<sup>15</sup> The British fleet on the American Coast appeared off Charleston harbor June 4, 1776. (McCrady, vol. 3.)

befallen you, I should have sincerely lamented it. Dean Swift never knew a person who could not with philosophy bear the misfortunes of another. He was I believe too severe; but I cannot help being afraid, that if diligent search were to be made in Charles-Town, some Philosophers might be found who would come under the Dean's description. You will I fear be troubled with the length of this Letter; and yet I cannot conclude without reminding you, of what must have escaped your attention when you wrote yours of 2d. April, I mean the difficulty there will be for me to send cloathing for my Negroes. My family, which is not very small,<sup>16</sup> cannot be supported without considerable expense; and you know that for these last two, or three years, I have not been very plentifully supplied with the means of doing it. I have been told that there have been considerable importations of Negro cloth into Carolina, and that a great deal has also been manufactured there. It has been said that some Gentlemen have made such a quantity, as not only to serve themselves, but likewise to sell to their neighbours. Colonel Heyward in particular I hear has been able to do this. You inform me that you have £8000 of mine out at interest; I should therefore be obliged to you, if you would apply as much of that as is necessary to the cloathing of my Negroes, even if you should receive no more money on my account, which I think can hardly be the case.

I now conclude with offering the Compliments of my Wife, and both our congratulations on your late appointment.<sup>17</sup>

I am Dear Sir, with great regard

Yr. friend and humble Servant

Ra: Izard.

The Honourable  
Henry Laurens, Esq.

*Endorsed:*

Ralph Izard  
16 July, 1778.  
No 3.

*(To be continued)*

<sup>16</sup> At this time Izard had five children living. (This *Magazine*, vol. II.)

<sup>17</sup> Laurens was elected a member of the Continental Congress January 10 1777. (Wallace, *Life of Laurens*, p. 226.)